

AG the plurality of regions are formed in a regular pattern across a width of each of the plurality of regions, and are formed in the same regular pattern across a length of each of the plurality of regions.

CPD 26. (Once amended) The fuel cell according to claim 24, wherein a width of a turning passage between an end of each of the plurality of rib portions and their respective opposing peripheral walls of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18 and 20-27 are currently pending in this case.

Claims 3, 7, 10, 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as unsupported in the specification, and claims 22-23 and 26-27 stand rejected under § 112, second paragraph as indefinite for lack of antecedent basis for a term.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,998,055 to Kurita, et al. ("Kurita").

Finally, claims 21, 23, 25 and 27 stand objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but are noted to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base and intervening claims.

The Applicants have carefully reviewed the October 18, 2002 Final Office Action. The Applicants are requesting entry of the foregoing requested amendments to place the claims in allowable condition.

The Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's indication that claims 21, 23, 25 and 27 would be allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. In view of the requested amendments and these remarks, the Applicants believe claims 21, 23, 25 and 27 are allowable in their present form. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully decline the invitation to amend these claims at this time.

The Applicants are requesting amendments as follows:

Claims 1, 20 and 24 are requested to be amended to improve the recitation of the gas flow paths in across the separators. The portions of Kurita cited by the Examiner as disclosing the present invention's regions are localized areas at the sides of the Kurita separator. As amended, the claims recite regions that extend across substantially the width of the separator, a feature not disclosed by Kurita. In addition, the Applicants respectfully

submit that the claim 1 amendments improve the description to the gas flow entry in the present invention such that Kurita's immediate 90-degree turn from its gas inlet into the flow path is not within claim 1's scope. Thus, as amended, Kurita does not anticipate these claims under §102(e).

Claims 3, 7, 10, 14 and 18 are requested to be amended to expressly recite a separate cooling plate adjacent to a separator, with projections forming a coolant flow passage across the back face of the separator (recited as in the claims as the "top" side). These amendments address the pending §112, first paragraph amendment.

Finally, claims 22 and 26 are requested to be amended to address to resolve the pending §112, second paragraph rejection by changing "the end" to read -- an end --.

#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing requested amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that entry of the proposed amendments would place the presently pending claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant therefore earnestly solicits entry of the amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18 and 20-27.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Twice amended) A fuel cell comprising:  
a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;  
a separator which holds the joint body;  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;  
a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and forms a passage for fluid which flows through the separator, wherein each of the plurality of regions extends substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other; and  
a gas supply inlet which connects the fluid passage and supplies a gas to the fluid passage therethrough, wherein the gas supply inlet is located so that the gas flows into a first of the plurality of regions in a direction [a gas flow between the gas supply inlet and the fluid passage is] parallel to a longitudinal axis of the first region [gas flow in the fluid passage].
3. (Once amended) A fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a cooling plate located adjacent to a top of the separator; and  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate [wherein the fluid includes a coolant].
7. (Once amended) A fuel cell according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a cooling plate located adjacent to a top of the separator; and  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate [wherein the fluid includes a coolant].
10. (Once amended) A fuel coil according to claim 8, further comprising:  
a cooling plate located adjacent to a top of the separator; and  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a

passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate [wherein the fluid includes a coolant].

14. (Once amended) A fuel cell according to claim 12, further comprising:  
a cooling plate located adjacent to a top of the separator; and  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a  
passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling  
plate [wherein the fluid includes a coolant].

18. (Once amended) A fuel cell according to claim 16, further comprising:  
a cooling plate located adjacent to a top of the separator; and  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a  
passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling  
plate [wherein the fluid includes a coolant].

20. (Once amended) A fuel cell comprising:  
a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of  
electrodes;  
a separator which holds the joint body;  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;  
a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of  
regions and forms a passage for fluid which flow through the separator,  
wherein each of the plurality of regions extend substantially across a width of the  
separator and communicate with each other, and the plurality of projections within each of  
the plurality of regions are formed in a regular pattern across a width of each of the plurality  
of regions, and are formed in the same regular pattern across a length of each of the plurality  
of regions.

22. (Once amended) The fuel cell according to claim 20, wherein a width of a turning  
passage between an [the] end of the rib portion and an opposing peripheral wall of the  
separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

24. (Once amended) A fuel cell comprising:  
a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;  
a separator which holds the joint body;  
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;  
a plurality of rib portions which divide an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and form a passage for fluid which flow through the separator,  
wherein each of the plurality of regions extend substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other, and the plurality of projections within each of the plurality of regions are formed in a regular pattern across a width of each of the plurality of regions, and are formed in the same regular pattern across a length of each of the plurality of regions.

26. (Once amended) The fuel cell according to claim 24, wherein a width of a turning passage between an [the] end of each of the plurality of rib portions and their respective opposing peripheral walls of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.